

2. List of Birds met with in North-eastern Queensland, chiefly at Rockingham Bay. By E. PIERSON RAMSAY, F.L.S. &c.

[Received August 24, 1875.]

1. *AQUILA AUDAX* *.

Scarce near the coast, but plentiful over the coast-range on the tablelands.

2. *HIERAËTUS MORPHNOIDES*.

This rare and interesting species is by no means easily obtained; a few specimens have visited the coast-range near the heads of the Herbert river, and on the tablelands. Mr. J. B. White procured several fine specimens of both sexes at Springsure and on the Barkoo river; and it is also found about 100 miles inland from Rockhampton. The sexes differ considerably in size; and individuals of both sexes vary in the colour and intensity of the plumage, some being of a rich dark rufous or rusty brown, others light buff (almost white) on the abdomen, pale rusty brown on sides of chest and flanks, a stripe of blackish brown down centre of each feather; the sexes and individuals of the same sex also differ greatly in size. A small male in the Dobroyde Collection measures:—total length 16·5 inches; bill, from forehead, along the culmen, 1·4, from cere, along culmen, 1·2, from cere to tip 1·1; wing 13, tail 7·8, tarsus 2·3. A female in the Australian Museum, total length 22 inches, wing 15·85, tail 9·8, bill 1·4, culmen 1·7, tarsus 2·8.

3. *POLIOAETUS LEUCOGASTER*.

Plentiful everywhere along the coast. I have noticed them seize Plover and *Porphyrio* as they rose from the swamps.

4. *HALIASTUR LEUCOSTERNUS*.

Very common all along the coast, they venture as far south as the Clarence river, where they are considered rare, and extend northwards to Cape York and coast of New Guinea. Eggs 2 in number, dirty white, sparingly blotched with reddish brown, length 2·1 by 1·65 inch.

5. *HALIASTUR SPHENURUS*.

A species with great range of habitat; it frequently ascends river-districts into the interior, and it is to be found on many of the lakes inland.

6. *PANDION LEUCOCEPHALUS*.

By no means rare, but not often procurable; it ranges as far south as the Clarence river. I have specimens of the eggs of this species taken from a nest of sticks built in a Eucalyptus overhanging the Brisbane river; they are 2 in number, 2·5 inches long by 1·65 in breadth, of a dirty white, strongly blotched with deep rust-red spots and markings, with a few blotches of slaty blue—a very handsome egg.

* Where no references are given, the names are taken from Gould's 'Hand-book.'

7. *FALCO HYPOLEUCUS*.

This exceedingly scarce bird was met with by Inspector Robert Johnstone, Esq., of the Herbert river, on the tablelands due west of Cardwell, and on the ranges thereabouts; J. B. White, Esq., of Springsure, due west inland from Rockhampton, likewise noticed it, and was fortunate enough to obtain several specimens. The young differ slightly from the adults, and, like others of the tribe, are occasionally mottled with brown on leaving the nest.

8. *FALCO LUNULATUS*.

One female, shot on Herbert river, belongs to the large light-coloured variety of this species.

9. *FALCO SUBNIGER*.

I am indebted to J. B. White, Esq., of Springsure, for much information respecting our Australian Falconidæ and for a specimen of the present species, procured by that gentleman in the Barkoo district. Mr. R. Johnstone also noticed it on the tablelands inland, about 40 miles from Cardwell, and on the Sea-view range.

10. *LEUCOSPIZA NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*.

Not a common species; only two or three specimens obtained; they are larger than our New-South-Wales birds, and barred with longitudinal blotches of dull brown on the breast and flanks; the backs of all were brown. Sex uncertain. No purely white birds seen.

11. *ASTUR APPROXIMANS*.

Adults and young obtained. This species seems more plentiful than the *Accipiter*.

12. *ACCIPITER TORQUATUS*.

Several observed on the margins of the scrubs; only one shot (male).

13. *ELANUS AXILLARIS*.

Apparently scarce; only shot one specimen.

14. *MILVUS ISURUS*.

I met with this rare species only on one occasion; there is a fine specimen in the Australian Museum, shot by Mr. Masters on the Burnet river, Queensland.

15. *MILVUS AFFINIS*.

Common everywhere at times, and found chiefly on the open grass-lands in the neighbourhood of the Herbert and Mackay rivers.

16. *BAZA SUBCRISTATA*.

Usually found in pairs about the margins of the scrubs and bushes. It is a harmless, inoffensive species, feeding chiefly on insects and their larvæ, or occasionally on dead animals.

17. *CIRCUS ASSIMILIS*.

Occasionally met with on the open grass-lands of the Herbert river. Mr. White obtained five examples inland from Rockhampton, at Springsure, and on the Barkoo river.

18. *CIRCUS GOULDI*.

Plentiful enough at times ; they often assemble in small flocks, and may be seen skimming over the open grass-beds and seizing the Quail and other small birds as they rise. If no Hawks are to be seen, a good method to obtain specimens is to set fire to the grass, when several species will soon arrive, and some may be seen dashing almost into the flames after the birds as they rise.

19. *STRIX TENEBRICOSSA*.

Very rare ; only one specimen, obtained in the bushes near Dalrymple's Gap.

20. *STRIX NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*.

This species is now plentiful in the bushes of the coast-range. I noticed in Mr. J. B. White's collection, obtained at Springsure, a very dark-faced variety ; the facial disk was of a deep chestnut ; another shot at Dalrymple's Gap on the coast-range has the disk almost white, and large spots on the under surface. It is a very variable species.

21. *STRIX DELICATULA*.

I examined one specimen shot near the township of Cardwell ; it does not appear to differ from the usual New-South-Wales form of this species.

22. *SPILOGLAUX BOOBOOK*.

One specimen, shot by my collector near Cardwell, is slightly larger than the ordinary birds of the same species found in New South Wales. Colouring the same.

23. *HIERACOGLAUX CONNIVENS*.

This species seems to be more plentiful than *Spiloglaux boobook* ; neither are they by any means rare.

24. *PODARGUS*, sp.

I have again to observe that two species, quite distinct from one another in the form of the bill as well as in colour, have been procured ; these are also distinct from those obtained by my late collector, Spalding, in the same district several years ago. The species of this genus are in such glorious confusion that it is almost impossible to recognize any of them from bare descriptions.

The two I have lately acquired are certainly distinct from any figured in Mr. Gould's work on the Birds of Australia.

25. *PODARGUS PAPUENSIS*.

Very scarce ; one specimen is slightly smaller than those I have obtained from Cape York.

26. *PODARGUS PHALÆNOIDES*.

One specimen only procured ; it is looked on as a very rare bird at Cardwell.

27. *PODARGUS MARMORATUS*.

One specimen only shot, at Salt-water Creek, near Cardwell.

28. *EUROSTOPODUS GUTTATUS*.

Plentiful at times ; several specimens were obtained. They fly low over the clearings and grassy flats for about an hour at dusk. Its single egg is laid on the ground without any preparation for it, usually near some stone or stump on the side of a stony ridge ; the ground-colour is of light-greenish, creamy white, sparingly marked all over with dots and oval spots of blackish and slaty brown, a few appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. Length 1·38 by 1 inch in breadth, both ends nearly equal.

29. *EUROSTOPODUS ALBOGULARIS*.

I shot several of this species on the Mary river, but only obtained one specimen from the Cardwell district. The egg resembles that of *E. guttatus*, without the greenish tinge on the ground-colour, which is of a rich, light cream-colour, spotted sparingly all over with round dots and oval-shaped marks of black, blackish brown, and slaty black, which latter appear beneath the surface of the shell ; length from 1·41 to 1·5 inch, breadth from 1·03 to 1·03, equal at both ends.

I found this species breeding both at Brisbane and on the Mary river. My brother, James Ramsay, Esq., of Nanama, forwarded to me authentic eggs from the Merule in the Riverina district of New South Wales.

I take the present opportunity of correcting a mistake respecting the egg of this species that I described as such in the list of birds from Port Denison (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 113) ; it evidently belonged to the following bird (*Caprimulgus macrurus*). Rainbird, who was not aware of the generic difference between the two birds, sent me a *Eurostopodus* instead of a *Caprimulgus*, the great similarity in the plumage of these two Australian species evidently misled him.

30. *CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS*.

This species is plentiful near Cardwell ; many specimens were procured. I am indebted to Inspector Robert Johnstone for a fine pair of their eggs ; they were found on the ground on the side of a ridge near the Herbert river, and are of a light rich cream-colour, fading to whitish after being emptied, clouded all over with fleecy markings of pale slaty lilac, which appear beneath the surface of the shell ; length 1·1 by ·81 inch in breadth.

31. *CHÆTURA CAUDACUTA*.

Met with on the plains inland and flying over the extensive grass beds on the lower Herbert.

32. *CYPSELUS TERRÆ-REGINÆ*, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 601.

I met with this interesting species upon several occasions. Their flight is remarkably swift, and resembles that of the Spine-tailed Swallow (*C. caudacuta*); their actions are also similar. Very difficult to procure.

33. *HIRUNDO FRONTALIS*.

This species seems to visit all parts of Australia; I noticed no difference between the individuals from the Herbert river and those in New South Wales.

34. *LAGENOPLASTES ARIEL*.35. *HYLOCHELIDON NIGRICANS*.

I found both species assembled together in large numbers at Upper Herbert in April; they were evidently preparing for migration.

36. *MEROPS ORNATUS*.

Common everywhere during April in immense numbers, adults and the young of the year evidently preparing for their annual migration.

37. *EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS*.

Plentiful about the township of Cardwell and elsewhere.

38. *DACELO GIGAS*.

Not so common as the next species; only two or three pairs noticed. Their different note at once distinguishes them even at a great distance.

39. *DACELO LEACHII*.

Plentiful and easily procured when *not* wanted! The furthest south I have noticed this species was about the Mary and Burnett rivers; but I have received specimens said to have been shot at Toowoomba, some distance inland from Brisbane.

40. *TODIRAMPHUS SANCTUS*.

This species was not plentiful; a few specimens shot, but unfortunately in the moult, were slightly smaller than the New-South-Wales birds.

41. *TODIRAMPHUS PYRRHOPYGIUS*.

I give this species on the authority of Inspector R. Johnstone, who observed it about 50 miles inland from the coast; it has a very extensive range of habitat. In December 1869 it visited Dobroyde, near Sydney.

42. *TODIRAMPHUS SORDIDUS*.

This species is by no means rare; but usually inhabits the mangrove-swamps and margins of the rivers near the mouth, where they are not easily obtained.

43. CYANALCYON MACLEAYI.

I seldom found this species on the river-banks. Inland it is plentiful, being the most common species. They excavate a hole in a nest of the White Ant (*Termes*), and, enlarging it into a chamber near the end, lay 4 or 5 round glossy white eggs, slightly smaller than those of *Halcyon sanctus*.

44. ALCYONE PULCHRA.

This appears to me to be only a northern variety of *Alcyone azurea*. It is common on all the creeks and rivers.

45. ALCYONE PUSILLA.

By no means rare, but seldom found away from the creeks in the very densest parts of the scrubs; it is always difficult to procure. Its note is a shrill, weak, piping cry, emitted chiefly while on the wing. Several specimens obtained. There is no difference in the plumage of the sexes.

46. TANYSIPTERA SYLVIA.

This lovely bird, I noticed, inhabited the most dense parts of the scrubs; I never saw the birds in any of the open parts; except diving across from one side of a gully to the other, they always keep to the low Palms and are more frequently heard than seen; their note is a shrill cricket-like chirrup.

47. GYMNORHINA TIBICEN.

By no means common; I regret I did not shoot some specimens; they appeared much smaller than our New-South-Wales birds, although their flute-like note is identical. Met with in the open forest-country.

48. CRACTICUS NIGROGULARIS.

49. CRACTICUS TORQUATUS.

I did not observe any difference in these and individuals of the same species from New South Wales.

50. CRACTICUS QUOYII.

This handsome species differs in its habits from all the other members of the genus. It frequents the mangrove-swamps and dense bushes about the rivers, where its presence is every now and then betrayed by its loud ringing note, emitted chiefly when on the move. For the most part it resorts to the tops of the trees, and feeds on various insects of several families.

51. GRAUCALUS MELANOPS.

Common, frequenting the open country.

52. GRAUCALUS MENTALIS.

Usually seen in pairs or small troops of 4 or 5 in number, frequently on margins of scrubs &c. or in the open forest-country.

53. *GRAUCALUS HYPOLEUCUS*.54. *GRAUCALUS SWAINSONI*.

Both species seem plentiful and confined to the scrubs and bushes.

55. *ARTAMUS SORDIDUS*.56. *ARTAMUS LEUCOPYGIALIS*.57. *ARTAMUS CINEREUS*.

All plentiful after the breeding-season ; they move about in troops, sometimes all three species together, sometimes separately and visiting certain localities alternately. The young of *A. cinereus* are striated with whitish on the head and back, like the young of other members of the genus.

58. *ARTAMUS MINOR* (Vieill.).

My collector obtained several of this species from a troop visiting Salt-water Creek, near Cardwell ; they frequented the open parts of the forest-lands and paddocks in the vicinity. I have met with them as far south as the Mary river. There is no difference in the plumage of the sexes.

59. *PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS*.

Perhaps the most common species. It resorts to the topmost leafy twigs, where it secures its food of insects and their larvæ. The nest is at the end of a long narrow burrow in the side of a bank, where a chamber is hollowed out and lined with narrow strips of bark or grasses for the reception of the eggs, which are 4 in number, snow-white, and a little larger than those of *P. punctatus*.

60. *PARDALOTUS PUNCTATUS*.

This seems a rare species, and was only met with once. *P. affinis* and *P. striatus* were not obtained within 100 miles of Cardwell, and have consequently been omitted from this list ; I have no doubt, however, that they will eventually be found in the Rockingham Bay district.

61. *STREPERA ANAPHONENSIS*.

I met with this easily recognized species upon several occasions in the open forest-country about the head-waters of the Herbert.

62. *CAMPEPHAGA KARU*.63. *CAMPEPHAGA JARDINII*.

Both species commonly found among the leafy boughs of trees on the margins of scrubs.

64. *PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS*.65. *PACHYCEPHALA MELANURA*.

I did not find either of these species plentiful, and only obtained one of each.

66. *COLLURICINCLA PARVULA*.

I noticed that individuals of this species are much more highly coloured and deeper in tint than those I obtained from the Richmond and Clarence rivers in New South Wales. It is one of the most common birds on the Herbert river, and has a very pleasing and varied note, imitating and mocking almost every bird it hears. It is lively and graceful in all its actions, the first up in the morning and the last to roost at night; the scrubs resound with its pleasing song. The nest is composed of shreds of bark, grasses, and skeletons of leaves, &c.; it is cup-shaped, similar but smaller than that of *C. harmonica*. The eggs, 4 in number, white, with black and slaty-brown dots and spots.

67. *OREOICA GUTTURALIS*.

Found only in the open forest-land about 25 miles inland.

68. *CHIBIA BRACTEATA*.

A very common species; I frequently observed them taking their food on the wing at dusk. They appear always to be noisy and pugnacious.

69. *RHIPIDURA ALBISCAPA*.70. *RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS*.

These species were only met with on one or two occasions in the bushes on the Herbert river; they appear to be rare in these parts.

71. *RHIPIDURA ISURA*.

Not finding any notice of the superciliary stripe in Mr. Gould's description of this bird, I was induced to consider it distinct, and described it under the name of *R. superciliosa* in P. Z. S. 1874, p. 604. Since, however, having had access to the folio edition of Mr. Gould's work, I find they are identical. This species has more of the habits of *Sauloprocta motacilloides*. It frequents the open parts of the forest and margins of the scrubs.

72. *SAULOPROCTA MOTACILLOIDES*.

Common everywhere on the margins of scrubs near dwellings and on the open plain.

73. *SEISURA INQUIETA*.

Not plentiful, met with occasionally.

74. *PIEZORHYNCHUS NITIDUS*.

Plentifully distributed over the whole district; frequents mangroves and thick brushes on the margins of creeks and rivers. A very pleasing and active bird.

75. *ARSES KAUPII*.

On a better acquaintance with this species, I find its habits closely

resemble those of *Rhipidura albiscapa*, especially in spreading its tail, creeping and hopping, with its wings half open, about on the trunks of the trees, often head downwards, searching under leaves and loose bark for insects, or darting out here and there to capture one on the wing. Its actions are lively and pleasing in the extreme; and when close by, the blue ring round the eye is plainly visible and conspicuous. This species is not rare, but seems to frequent the same parts of the dense scrubs throughout the whole season. I noticed several pairs in the Herbert-river brushes, and frequently returned to the same place day after day to watch them and wait for Casuaries; at such times I had ample opportunities of studying the habits and actions of many other species, which would frequently come within a few feet of me, and in more than one instance perched on my hat.

76. MYIAGRA PLUMBEA.

I shot a few specimens in the hopes of finding *M. latirostris*, but did not find them differ from the New-South-Wales specimens.

77. MYIAGRA NITIDA.

Like the preceding species, I found this bird plentiful in the dense brushes and scrubs on the Herbert river and other parts of the district.

78. MACHÆRIRHYNCHUS FLAVIVENTER.

I was delighted to find this pretty species, and secured some fine skins just in time, as they had just finished breeding, and in a few days afterwards I found them moulting, January 1874.

79. MICRÆCA FASCINANS?

On one occasion only I met with a bird which I believe to be of this species; having more important birds in view, did not secure any specimens.

80. MICRÆCA FLAVIGASTER.

This bird is not plentiful, and was only found after several weeks' diligent search. Inhabits the tops of the trees in the open grass-lands. I never heard it singing as its representative *M. fascinans* is wont to do in New South Wales; and only on one occasion did I find them near any of the settlers' residences. They moulted earlier than any other birds in the district, being found in full new plumage on April 28, 1874.

81. MONARCHA CARINATA.

Common in dense scrubs. It builds a neat nest among upright twigs, round, open above, composed of grasses and fine shreds of bark, the outside completely covered with bright green moss (*Hypnum dendroides* &c.). The eggs, two or three in number, are white, thickly sprinkled with light reddish chestnut or reddish brown spots and dots.

82. *MONARCHA TRIVIRGATA*.

One of the most common scrub birds. Its actions are more animated than those of *M. carinata*; it constructs the same kind of nests, in similar places, and of the same materials; also lays eggs two or three in number, of the same colour and markings, only differing a little in size.

83. *GERYGONE ALBOGULARIS*.

This species just arrived in time, before I left the Herbert, to be entered in the list; their arrival was announced by their pretty, melodious song, about the end of April. They arrive to breed with us in New South Wales in September or late August. If I remember right, their nest and eggs I have fully described previously,

84. *GERYGONE CULICIVORA*?

This is either *G. culicivora* or a new species. It is found common among the dense belts of mangroves near Cardwell; we found several of its nests containing eggs and young birds on Feb. 26, when my young friend Master I. Sheridan, an enthusiastic young naturalist, kindly waded nearly up to his thighs in black mud to secure them for me; one nest contained the eggs of a Cuckoo, exactly the same as that of *Chrysococcyx plagosus*, but smaller than any eggs of that bird I have hitherto met with; it is probably the egg of *C. minutillus*. The nest is a somewhat bulky structure, and resembles closely a lump of débris left by the floods hanging to the end of some leafy twig, it is composed of shreds of bark, dried water-weeds, and withered grasses, selected, I have no doubt, from the débris of the floods, plentiful on every side. It is oval oblong, with a small side entrance, and suspended by the top to the end of some hanging branch, often a considerable distance from the shore. The eggs are white, with a few dots of brown at the larger end; some altogether white, without any markings.

85. *GERYGONE*, sp. inc.

One of the most common species, always to be found in the dense scrubs by its pleasing twittering note. The birds were in full moult when shot. A *very indistinct* dark bar across tip of the tail, otherwise like *G. albogularis*.

86. *ERYTHRODRYAS ROSEA*.

One pair noticed on the margin of a dense scrub; although frequently watched for hours, no nest was discovered.

87. *PETROICA MULTICOLOR*.88. *MELANODRYAS CUCULLATA*.

Both species appear to be residents; they are not plentiful, but met with on several occasions in the open forest-lands, and near the homesteads of the settlers.

89. *PÆCILODRYAS SUPERCILIOSA*.

Found frequenting the outskirts of scrubs and thinly wooded banks of the rivers.

90. *PÆCILODRYAS? CINEREIFRONS*, sp. nov.

Head dark ashy grey, slightly tinged with olive on the crown; a broad ashy-grey band extends from over the eye to the back of the head; lores and chin blackish brown; throat and a short broad line extending just under the eye white; ear-coverts, nape, interscapular region, mantle, and rump olive-brown; the upper tail-coverts and tail olive, washed with rufous; inner webs of the tail-feathers dark ashy brown, the outer three feathers on either side margined with a well-defined line of white at the tips; under surface of the tail dark ashy brown; under tail-coverts and flanks rich buff; abdomen white; breast and chest ashy grey, becoming white on the throat; sides tinged with olive-brown; under surface of the wings dark ashy brown, having a white band crossing the wing near the base of the primaries and secondaries; under wing-coverts dark ashy brown, a spot of white at the base of the spurious wing; under surface of the shoulder white, the upper surface of the shoulder ashy grey; the wing-coverts above and the concealed portions of primaries and secondaries blackish brown; the scapulars and terminal half of the outer web of primaries and secondaries olive; the basal portion blackish brown, having a broad white band extending through them across the wing, just in front of the greater wing-coverts, and being broader on the secondaries nearest the body, but not extending on to the scapulars. Bill black at the base, white at the tip and along the under margin of lower mandible; legs, feet, and nails flesh-colour.

Total length 5·7 inches; bill from forehead ·8, from nostril ·45, from angle of the mouth ·9, height at the nostrils ·25, width ·2; wing 3·9 inches; tail 2·9; tarsus 1·2; hind toe ·5, its claw ·3; middle toe ·65, its claw ·25; outer toe ·55, its claw ·2; inner toe ·45, its claw ·2.

Hab. Brushes of the coast range near Cardwell, Rockingham Bay.

Remarks.—In habits and actions this species closely resembles the *Eopsaltria*, and like them may be seen perching frequently on the side of the upright stems of the trees.

91. *EOPSALTRIA CAPITO*.

Plentiful in the dense parts of the brushes. Their habits resemble *E. australis* of New South Wales.

92. *EOPSALTRIA INORNATA*, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 604.

In habits it resembles the preceding, but is either very rare or easily overlooked. It has been found in the scrubs on the Endeavour river.

93. *PSOPHODES CREPITANS*.

The specimens shot of this species were a trifle smaller than those from New South Wales. The nest is a rather bulky structure, com-

posed of rootlets, and skeletons of leaves and ferns, &c., lined with finer material, and sometimes, I am told, with feathers; it is not unlike a very large-sized nest of *Sericornis frontalis*, or a bulky nest of *Malurus cyaneus*, it is dome-shaped, with a comparatively large opening in the side, and placed in low bushes surrounded by vines &c. The eggs are three to four in number, of a greenish-white colour, with blackish, irregular, linear-shaped markings, some twisted and looped; a few on the larger end, where they are most numerous, are of a slaty blue, and appear beneath the surface of the shell; on the thicker end of some, hair-lines of black predominate, and, crossing and looping over one another, form here and there a black blotch. Length 1.1 to 1.2 inch, by 0.8 to 0.85.

94. *MALURUS CYANEUS*.

I met with this species at Port Dennison, but not further north if I remember rightly.

95. *MALURUS AMABILIS*.

96. *MALURUS HYPOLEUCUS*, Gould, Suppl. B. A. pl. 22.

These birds, whether they be of the same species or not, were found together on the open grass-lands in the neighbourhood of Cardwell, in the vicinity of scrubs. It has not by any means been proved that they are male and female of the same species, as I find *neither Cockerell nor Thorpe*, during their trip at Cape York, ascertained the sexes of the birds they shot, *by dissection*: I have made particular inquiries of Mr. Thorpe on this point; and I regret to say my collector at Rockingham Bay, when he skinned my specimens, made the same mistake, and went solely by the plumage; in the same locality were shot specimens of *M. lamberti*. It is not improbable that Mr. Gould's *Malurus hypoleucus* is quite a distinct species, or perhaps the young male of *M. amabilis*; but from the shape of the bill &c. I am at present inclined to believe it to be a distinct species; the fact that they associate together in troops proves nothing on this point.

97. *MALURUS LAMBERTI*.

I think Rockingham Bay must be the most northern limit of this species. The New South Wales birds differ in the tint of colouring from those from South Australia, being of a more verditer blue on the head, and of a lighter tint on the back.

98. *MALURUS MELANOCEPHALUS*.

Common everywhere from the Clarence river in New South Wales to Cape York.

99. *CISTICOLA RUFICEPS*.

This species is plentifully dispersed over the grass beds; it is common near Sydney, and equally plentiful at Cape York. The nest is a very neat, dome-shaped structure, chiefly composed of fine grasses, thistle-down, and cobweb, or the flowering portions of

grasses all matted closely and thickly together, and having the adjacent leaves of the plant in which it is placed neatly sewed on to the side of the nest; sometimes two or three broad leaves are sewed together with cobweb, and the nest made between them. The eggs are about the size of those of *Sericornis brevirostris*, of a delicate blue, spotted rather largely with reddish brown; they are three in number. The nest is always placed near the ground where the grass growing through some broad-leaved plant affords it concealment.

100. *SERICORNIS CITREOGULARIS*.

101. *SERICORNIS MAGNIROSTRIS*.

Both species plentiful in the dense scrubs; their large pendent nests hang like masses of moss-grown debris from almost every tree in certain parts.

102. *GEOBASILEUS CHRYSORRHUS*.

I met with this species about 50 miles inland from Cardwell. There were also several *Acanthizæ* twittering in the scrub close by; but I had no opportunity of determining the species.

103. *ANTHUS AUSTRALIS*.

Always abundant in similar situations to those it frequents in New South Wales.

104. *SPHENÆACUS GALACTOTES*.

This species is one of the most common grass-birds; universally dispersed over the whole of Queensland.

105. *CALAMOHERPE AUSTRALIS*.

Found only on one occasion in tall reeds while we were shooting wild Geese (*Anseranas melanoleucus*); the note being exactly the same as that of the New-South-Wales bird, I presume it was the same species. Did not shoot any specimens.

105*. *MIRAFRA HORSFIELDII*.

I found this species frequenting the dry parts of the grass beds all over the district of the Herbert river.

106. *ÆGINTHA TEMPORALIS*.

This species appears to be very rare about Cardwell. I met with only one small troop at Dalrymple's Gap, on the road to the Lower Herbert river.

107. *NEOCHMIA PHAËTON*.

The most common species from Rockhampton north to Cardwell.

108. *DONACOLA CASTANEOTHORAX*.

This and the preceding two species are the only ones I met with near

Cardwell. *Poephila gouldiæ* was described to me very correctly, and said to have been met with on the tablelands about 30 miles from Waterview; I did not find any specimens myself.

109. *PITTA STREPITANS*, var. *SIMILLIMA*.

This northern variety of *Pitta strepitans* I found common enough at the Herbert river and scrubs around Cardwell. Some of the specimens are deeper-coloured and smaller even than any I have seen from Cape York; others, again, are not to be distinguished from the New-South-Wales birds; the white spot on the wing is almost obsolete in many from the ranges near Cardwell. Their notes are exactly the same in all localities. The nest and eggs are the same, and are found to vary in the same way as those described and figured by me in 'The Ibis,' 1867, p. 417. In size they are slightly smaller. I believe the finely spotted variety of the eggs of this species, taken at Cape York by Cockerell and Thorpe, was at the time mistaken for the eggs of *Pitta mackloti*—which is very probable. One thing is certain, I never knew a nest of either *Pitta strepitans* or *P. simillima* to contain more than *three eggs alike*; and most often two out of the four (*the number invariably laid for a sitting*) have been of the finely spotted and light-coloured variety, the other two strongly and deeply marked, as figured in 'The Ibis,' 1867, p. 417.

110. *OREOCINCLA LUNULATA*.

I only once met with this species, in the scrubs on rocky sides of the coast-range; the eggs elongate, greenish, spotted with reddish brown, four in number.

111. *ÆLURÆDUS MACULOSUS*, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 601.

This interesting species appears to take the place of the *Æ. smithii* of New South Wales. We found it feeding on the fruit of the native figs, in small families of four to eight in number. The note is more of a *whistle* than a *cry* of any kind.

112. *SCENOPÆUS DENTIROSTRIS*, gen. et sp. nov.

The whole of the upper surface, wings, and tail rich olive-brown, the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries blackish brown, their margins near the base buffy white; under surface of the shoulders yellowish buff, with remains of broken bars of blackish brown on the smaller feathers; the under wing-coverts yellowish buff, with cross bars of dull brown; under primary-coverts buff, crossed more distinctly with dull brown; under surface of primaries and secondaries dark ashy brown, the basal half of the inner margin buff tinged with a faint wash of light rufous, flanks olive-buff; abdomen buff; under tail-coverts olive-buff, each feather barred with two or more lanceolate marks of dull olive-brown, under surface of the tail dull brown; throat, neck below, chest, and the rest of the under surface buffy white, each feather margined with olive-brown, which becomes lighter and less distinct on the lower parts, and almost obsolete on the flanks

and abdomen; on the throat and chest the margins are almost black, and tinged with yellowish olive on the sides of the neck and chest, and the buff central portion of a deeper tint; the under surface has the appearance of being broadly streaked with lanceolate marks of buff, which become more and more indistinct as they approach the under tail-coverts, becoming obsolete on the abdomen.

Total length 11 inches; wing 5·7; tail 4; tibia 2·2; tarsus 1·2; hind toe 0·6, its claw 0·4, its width 0·25; inner toe 0·65, its claw 0·3; middle toe 0·9, its claw 0·35; outer toe 0·7, its claw 0·3; width of the sole of the foot 0·35; bill from gape 1·2, from forehead 1·1, from the nostril 0·6, height at nostril 0·6, width at nostril 0·5, culmen 1·1; upper mandible black, lighter at the tip; lower mandible blackish brown; gape yellow; legs and feet black, claws brown.

Note.—The cheeks and sides of the face and the ear-coverts have a rufous tinge, which may be from blood-stains; the greater portion of the breast and abdomen having been shot away, it is almost impossible to describe these parts accurately. The only specimens procured were shot by Inspector Johnstone, of Cardwell, with his rifle, and were consequently much damaged.

Hab. Bellenden-Ker range and the dense brushes clothing the steep sides of "Sea-view range" on the north-east coast of Queensland.

This species is not as yet known to build a bower; but like the Catbirds it clears a large space under the brushwood some 9 or 10 feet in diameter, and ornaments the cleared part with tufts and little heaps of gaily tinted leaves and young shoots.

This bird, which cannot be placed in any of the known genera of the family of Bower-birds, nevertheless approaches *Æluroedus*; it differs, however, from that genus in the following particulars:—The head itself is more elongated, the forehead flattish, broad, sloping very gradually from the bill, which is short and thick, much swollen at the sides; culmen much curved to the tip, which is blunt and strongly toothed; the inner margin also is toothed, having three distinct indentations (*hidden by the outer margin*) for the teeth of the lower mandible to fit into; lower mandible with one terminal and two lateral teeth on the margin on either side; nostrils basal, sunk, large, circular; the culmen just over these is compressed laterally; they are not hidden, although the bill is thickly clothed with feathers at the base; a few black short bristles over the nostrils; bill, measuring from its extreme base on the forehead, nearly the full length of the head; wings moderate, quills elongate, narrow, all more or less rounded; the secondaries squarish at the tips, being of a nearly equal breadth throughout; tail short, square, of twelve feathers, nearly all equal in length, the under coverts reaching to about the middle of the tail; tarsi short, about half the length of the tibia*; feet comparatively small, hind toe connected to inner toe at the base by interdigital membrane, its sole broad; outer toe connected to middle toe as far as first joint, toes short; outer and inner

* One tenth of an inch longer than *half* the tibia.

about equal in length, middle toe about one third longer ; hind toe shortest and broadest at base ; claws of all weak, curved, and compressed laterally. The plumage resembles that of the Catbird *Ælurædus*, being loose and comparatively long.

113. *MIMETA AFFINIS*.

114. *MIMETA VIRIDIS*.

115. *MIMETA FLAVOCINCTA*.

The first of these species is the most common ; the two others I did not find to be plentiful.

116. *SPHECOTHERES MAXILLARIS*.

Plentiful everywhere on the margins of the scrubs.

117. *SPHECOTHERES FLAVIVENTRIS*.

I noticed several in a collection of birds made in the district, but did not perceive any specimens myself at Cardwell.

118. *CORCORAX MELANORHAMPHUS*.

Met with once or twice inland in open forest country.

119. *CORVUS AUSTRALIS*.

Common about the slaughtering-yards throughout the district.

120. *CALORNIS METALLICA*.

One of the most common birds in the scrubs of the Herbert river. They breed in companies, seemingly all through the year, making large bulky nests of grass and fine twigs with a side opening, which hang from the ends of the leafy boughs in clusters or singly ; at times the branches break off with the weight of the nests and their contents. On the Herbert I noticed they gave preference to a small-leaved species of fig resembling *Ficus syringifolia* ; and before a colony began to build, the twigs on many of the branches were broken and began to wither, and, hanging down, at a distance resembled in colour the brown nests of this species. I noticed this on two occasions, and remarked to Inspector Johnstone that the birds were building near his camp. However, when examining the tree through our field-glasses, we found nothing but bunches of dry leaves swinging about with the wind. A few days afterwards we noticed a neighbouring fig-tree in a similar condition ; and as both trees were resorted to by these birds, I was under the impression that it was caused by the ravages of some insect which the birds came to feed on ; however, about a month afterwards, Mr. Johnstone informed me that these trees had been taken possession of by colonies of Weaverbirds (or "Starlings," as they are called in those parts) ; and this bulk of brown nests was forming quite a new feature in the landscape.

The surface of the ground under a tree which has been colonized for some time is perfectly green with thousands of seedling plants,

which have sprung from the fruits brought by these birds for their young.

The food of this species is chiefly, if not exclusively, fruit of various kinds, including the seeds of several species of palms, particularly those of *Ptychosperma alexandræ* and *Kentia wendtlundtiana*; but although four species of *Calamus* with edible subacid fruits abound, I never found that these birds fed upon them.

The eggs are from three to four in number, variable in form, some roundish, others elongate, about the size of those of *Sturnus vulgaris*, of a greenish white, with bright reddish brown spots and dots, more numerous at the larger end.

121. POMATOSTOMUS SUPERCILIOSUS.

122. POMATOSTOMUS TEMPORALIS.

I only met with these birds on the western side of the coast-range, in open forest and thinly timbered country.

123. GLYCIPHILA FASCIATA.

This species is plentifully distributed over the coast-country from Port Denison to Cooktown. In habits and actions they resemble *Ptilotis flava* and others.

124. GLYCIPHILA SUBFASCIATA, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 385.

This species, although possessing nothing in its sombre plumage to recommend it, is certainly very interesting on account of its peculiarly shaped nest, being the only one of the Australian Meliphaginæ that I have met with which constructs a dome-shaped nest. It is a neat structure, composed of strips of bark, spiders' webs, and grass, and lined with fine grasses &c. The opening at the side is rather large; but the nest itself is rather deep, being about 4 inches long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches wide. The eggs I did not obtain; but one taken from the oviduct of a bird is 0.75 inch in length and 0.5 in breadth, pure white, with a few dots of black sprinkled over the larger end.

The nests were invariably placed among the drooping branches of a species of *Acacia* always overhanging some creek or running water. All the nests I found were so situated; and my young friend Master I. Sheridan of Cardwell, who has paid considerable attention to objects of natural history, assures me that he has never found them otherwise; and the usual number of eggs for a sitting are two, and frequently without any black dots on the surface.

Their note is a sharp, shrill, monotonous cry, oft repeated at intervals; iris reddish brown.

125. STIGMATOPS SUBOCULARIS.

This species seems plentiful, inhabiting the mangroves and margins of the scrubs on the water's edge. They betake themselves to almost any of the forest trees when they are in bloom, attracted by

the honey and insects. In the neighbourhood of Sydney they frequent the orange-groves, and occasionally breed among the branches during the months of October and November. Their cry is peculiar, but not unpleasant, and at times varied.

126. *PTILOTIS LEWINII*.

This species is universally dispersed over the whole of the coast-country from the Hunter river to Cooktown. It is particularly fond of extracting honey from the flowers of the plantains and native bananas (*Musa banksii*, Müller). Banana groves abound in the Cardwell district, and may be distinguished at a great distance in large patches clothing the sides of the mountains on the sea-coast; and here this species is one of the most common birds. The nest is like that of *P. chrysops*, cup-shaped, open at the top, slung by the sides or rim between the twigs of some leafy bough or vine; it is composed of shreds of bark and grasses, webs of spiders, &c., and lined with similar material of a finer texture, or occasionally, when found in the neighbourhood of dwellings, with feathers, wool, or other soft substances. The eggs are two in number, pearly white, with deep-reddish dots.

127. *PTILOTIS VERSICOLOR*.

I only met with one specimen of this bird, which I obtained from Broadbent, who informed me the species was not scarce and usually fed among the blossoms of tall *Eucalypti*.

128. *PTILOTIS MACLEAYANA*, Ramsay, P. L. S. of N. S. W. pt. i. p. 10 (1875).

This fine species is one I mentioned in the P. Z. S. 1868, p. 386, under the name of *Ptilotis versicolor* of Gould (Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 506); and, strange to say, even the fully adult birds show that peculiarity in the plumage which is usually characteristic of immaturity. At first I considered them all young *P. versicolor*; but after having obtained and examined, from several sources, extending over a period of six years, numerous fine specimens, all in similar plumage, and shot at various times through the year, I felt convinced that they belonged to a distinct species; and on comparing them with Mr. Gould's excellent plates, I have no doubt I am correct.

The species has not a very extensive range, being confined, as far as we yet know, to the coast-range from the Herbert river north to Cooktown on the Endeavour. I found them nowhere plentiful, and always of a shy and retiring disposition. The sexes are alike in plumage.

The only note I heard them utter is a simple feeble cry resembling that of *P. chrysops*, but not so loud; in their actions and retiring disposition they resemble more *P. lewinii*.

129. *PTILOTIS FASCIOGULARIS*.

I find no mention in my note-book of meeting with this bird at Rockingham Bay; but I found it plentiful on an island off Port

Denison and near Cleveland Bay, about 60 miles due south of Rockingham Bay. They frequent the mangroves, and are to be met with in considerable numbers on many of the islands and mangrove-swamps along the shores of various bays as far south as Moreton Bay. They congregate in considerable numbers, and are very pugnacious at times, fighting among themselves and chattering as the yellow-tufted Honey-eaters (*P. auricomis*) are wont to do. I never met with them away from the margins of the salt water.

130. *PTILOTIS FRENATA*, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 603.

A very distinct and interesting species, procured near the township of Cardwell, feeding among the blossoms of the *Eucalypti*. It appears to be very scarce, only three being observed during our stay of six months.

131. *PTILOTIS FLAVA*.

A very beautiful species, and perhaps the most common bird about Cardwell; frequently seen clinging to the flowers of the bananas and plantains in cultivation round the houses: when among the blossoms of the *Acaciæ* they are scarcely discernible, so closely does their yellow plumage match the tint of the blossoms.

132. *PTILOTIS PENICILLATA*.

133. *PTILOTIS FUSCA*.

I found these species frequenting the margins of creeks and rivers on the Upper Herbert, and about 50 miles inland from the coast. I did not notice them near the Bay.

134. *PTILOTIS CHRYSOPS*.

Common everywhere along the coast.

135. *PTILOTIS FILIGERA*.

This seems to be a scarce species and very local, although dispersed over a wide area. I obtained one only at Rockingham Bay; and one I received from Cape York.

136. *PLECTORHYNCHA LANCEOLATA*.

Although I was not fortunate enough to meet with this fine species myself, I saw some fine specimens which had been procured some 60 miles inland. This species appears to confine itself to the west of the coast-range, and is met with occasionally about the heads of the Burnett river.

137. *MELIPHAGA PHRYGIA*.

Once found in open forest-country near heads of the Upper Herbert river, 50 miles inland.

138. *TROPIDORHYNCHUS CORNICULATUS*.

Universally dispersed over the whole country as far north as Cardwell.

139. *TROPIDORHYNCHUS CITREOGULARIS*.

Equally plentiful with the last mentioned, but confined to the more inland parts and open forest-country. The nest is smaller, but similar in form and shape, and placed in like situations to that chosen by *T. corniculatus*; and like that species it builds its nest of strips of bark, and lines it with grass and finer shreds of bark. It is usually suspended by the brim from a horizontal bough, and frequently overhanging the water. An egg given to me some time ago, and said to belong to this species, is creamy white with blackish dots, in form somewhat elongated.

140. *MYZOMELA SANGUINOLENTA*.

During the months of April and May 1874 this bird was found by no means rare, feeding among the blossoms of *Lophostemon*, *Melaleuca*, and *Eucalyptus* in the neighbourhood of Cardwell and on the Herbert river. They arrive about Sydney during the months of October and November, and, remaining, breed during November, December, and as late as January.

141. *MYZOMELA PECTORALIS*?

One specimen only obtained, which I believe to be the young of this species: should it prove otherwise, it will be hereafter described.

142. *MYZOMELA OBSCURA*.

A very common species about Port Mackay and Port Denison, but did not appear to be so numerous about Cardwell; several specimens obtained. I have seen it as far south as the Mary river, where, however, it is very rare.

143. *ENTOMYZA CYANOTIS*?

While in the open forest-country near the heads of the Herbert river I met with species of *Entomyza* on several occasions, but regret we did not shoot any, having nothing smaller than a revolver in the shape of firearms with us. I am not by any means sure that the species was *E. cyanotis*, and am more inclined to consider it *E. albipennis*.

144. *MELITHREPTUS ALBOGULARIS*.

Common all along the coast-line, and for a considerable distance inland, from Brisbane to Cooktown.

145. *MELITHREPTUS GULARIS*.

This species appears to be plentiful, but not in the immediate vicinity of the coast. It is not rare about Maryborough, and is also found on the Upper Herbert. It has considerable powers of song, which may be heard often at daylight in the morning.

While camped on the banks of the Gregory a pair of these birds frequented a Wattle-tree (*Acacia*) near to our "tent" (a sheet of bark!), and delighted us every morning for many days by pouring

out their varied and pleasing song, which often lasted for ten or fifteen minutes without ceasing. I have since heard their song under more comfortable circumstances; and my brother and I at once recognized our old friends.

The nest and eggs are similar but slightly larger than those of *M. lunulatus*; eggs two in number, pale salmon-pink with deep reddish salmon dots on the larger end; the nest is cup-shaped, slung by the rim between twigs at the end of a leafy bough, and composed of fine grasses and strips of bark webbed together with spider's nests.

146. *DICÆUM HIRUNDINACEUM*.

This species seems dispersed over the whole of Australia; nevertheless it is a bird seldom met with in collections, which may be accounted for by its habit of resorting to the highest trees. I found that both in Queensland and New South Wales they frequent the large clumps of mistletoe and *Loranthus*, of the fruit of which they seem to be particularly fond; at times they enter the gardens and feed on the fruits of the Cape-mulberry (*Morus*, sp.). An *Ehretia hottentotica* at Dobroyde, when its berries are ripe, is a favourite place of resort for this species.

147. *NECTARINIA AUSTRALIS*.

I only met with this interesting species on one occasion near Cardwell; it is by no means common in that district.

148. *ZOSTEROPS CÆRULESCENS*.

The Queensland specimens of this species are frequently smaller than our New-South-Wales birds, and often of a brighter tint on the head and throat, the silver ring round the eye is comparatively larger and more conspicuous.

149. *PTILORHIS PARADISEA*.

The most northerly point that I met with this species was at Port Mackay on the Pioneer river; it was considered there a very rare bird. I have heard of its being occasionally met with in the ranges near Gympie.

This bird is very similar to *Climacteris* in its actions. While encamped for some three or four months in the ranges of the North Richmond river, the great stronghold of this species, I had abundant opportunities of studying its habits, and was struck with the similarity of its actions to our Tree-creepers. The young males and females, seldom accompanied by more than one adult male in livery, are frequently met with together traversing the stems and thick branches of the trees, especially those showing signs or in a state of decay.

The call-note of the adult male is a shrill scream, easily imitated sufficiently to attract its attention and cause it to remain until you approach. By this means I have frequently watched it closely as it hopped round the bole of some decaying tree, or tore off the loose bark in search of insects.

Seldom more than one adult male is found to every quarter of a square mile of scrub; and so little do they wander about, that it was customary for me to return to the same locality day after day until I had shot the bird, being quite sure of hearing him calling if he had not been destroyed in the mean time. These old males are usually solitary; but two or more occasionally meet in some favourite feeding-tree, when a fight is sure to ensue; for, although closely resembling the *Climacteris* in their actions, they differ in this respect, that they may occasionally be found feeding on the fruit of the native tamarind (*Tamarindus australis*).

The natives informed me that the Rifle-bird lays its eggs, which are white, in the hollow branch of a tree without making any nest whatever—which is not improbable.

150. *PTILORHIS VICTORIÆ*.

The great stronghold of this species is the Bernard Islands north-east of Cardwell, a short distance from the coast. It is at times found on Hinchinbrook Islands, seldom on Gould and Dunk Islands, but not unfrequently in the dense scrubs clothing the coast-range near Cardwell. Once only did I meet with it on the Herbert river.

Their note and habits closely resemble those of *P. paradisea*. They were in full moult during the time of my visit, February and March, and did not regain their livery until May.

151. *CLIMACTERIS SCANDENS*.

Not scarce in the open forest-land on the banks of the Upper Herbert river.

152. *CLIMACTERIS LEUCOPHÆA*.

Met with on one or two occasions on the margins of scrubs on the Herbert river &c.

153. *ORTHONYX SPALDINGI*, Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1868, p. 386.

In habits and actions this fine species closely assimilates to *O. spinicauda*, but is far more retiring and shy, much more noisy, and may be heard more frequently than seen. The young attains the adult plumage after the first moult, which takes place about December. They breed in September and October; and I believe the young then hatched moult in February and March, judging from a very fine series of skins I then procured.

This species has the habit of scratching up the dead leaves, and throwing the débris far behind it, after the manner of the "Scrub-hens" (*Megapodius tumulus*). Its powers of mimicry are very great; and, like the Lyre-birds, it seems capable of imitating almost any sound. These birds are not only rare, but at all times very difficult to obtain, and appear to be confined to the thickly timbered scrubs on the steep and rugged sides of the coast-range near Cardwell.

154. *SITTELLA STRIATA*, Gould, Suppl. B. Aust. pl. 54.

I mentioned this species as the young of *S. leucoptera* in P. Z. S.

1868, p. 387, where a mistake in the description occurs, the words *upper surface* should have been *under surface*, as the text will show. It is plentifully distributed over the whole Rockingham-Bay district, and regarded by the aborigines there as sacred and as having had something to do with their first coming to that part of the country. This species seems to be more active than other *Sittellæ* I have met with. They are usually found in small troops, and seem in a hurry; hopping quickly over the trunks, stems, and branches of the trees, oftentimes head downwards, creeping round and round the limbs, stopping only to disengage some insect from the bark; and calling to each other in a mournful monotonous cry, they fly off to repeat the same actions on some other tree. They move along the forest at no mean pace, usually going in a direct line. The nest, like that of *S. chrysoptera*, is placed in an upright and usually dead fork of some high branch; it is made of fine strips of bark with a large quantity of spider's webs, with which small scales of bark resembling that of the branch in which it is placed are felted on so carefully as hardly to be detected even at a comparatively short distance; the rim is very thin, the nest open above and very deep.

155. *SITTELLA LEUCOCEPHALA*.

This very conspicuous species is far from being rare, and is usually met with in open forest country over the whole of northern Queensland as far as Cooktown. Its habits and actions and nidification do not differ materially from those of the other members of the genus. The notes of all closely resemble each other.

156. *CUCULUS CANOROIDES*.

This species was not rare at Cardwell during the months of March to May. I shot several of them in the moult and young plumage. They do not appear to me to differ much from the European *C. canorus*, either in the adult or in *any of the rufous-tinted immature stages of plumage*. I never heard them call. The young have a decidedly strong rufous tint pervading the upper surface.

157. *CACOMANTIS FLABELLIFORMIS*.

158. *CUCULUS*, sp. inc.*

Both species common from September to May; the latter I find identical with a bird received from India.

159. *LAMPROCOCYX PLAGOSUS*.

160. *LAMPROCOCYX MINUTILLUS*.

Of the former, two specimens only were obtained, it does not appear to be very plentiful; of the latter species only one specimen was shot, near Cardwell. I obtained from the nest of a species of *Gerygone* an egg resembling that of *L. plagosus*, but much smaller, which, it is very probable, is that of *L. minutillus*.

* I can find no description of this bird in any work.

161. *SCYTHROPS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ*.162. *EUDYNAMIS FLINDERSI*.163. *CENTROPUS PHASIANUS*.

These species are all common enough throughout the whole district, the *Scythrops* usually met with flying about the tops of high trees in companies of five to eight in number; they have a loud harsh guttural croak, which is most usually heard early in the morning. The *Eudynamis* frequents fruit-bearing trees of every description, and feeds on numerous species of berries found in the scrubs, occasionally visiting gardens in the neighbourhood of the settlements for a like purpose. The Swamp-Pheasant, or Cookoo, as it is usually called (*Centropus phasianus*), is very numerous and may be always found frequenting the extensive grass-beds throughout the Colony. These birds prey on mice and small animals, holding them with their feet, and tearing them to pieces if they are too large. I once had a pair of *Centropus* in confinement; and although scarcely nine months old, they readily killed mice or young rats when let go in their cage: first picking them up quickly in their bill and rapping them smartly against the sides of the cage, they soon killed them; but often a peck on the back with their strong bills killed or disabled the animal at once. They eat raw meat, grasshoppers (*Locusta*), lizards, frogs, or bread readily; they appeared to be omnivorous, and became very tame in a short time.

164. *CACATUA GALERITA*.

This bird seems universally dispersed over the whole of Australia; and they are not one whit the less mischievous in the Cardwell district than any other. I found that they frequent the palm trees when the seeds are ripening; and there perched on the fruiting stems they amused themselves biting off the strings of red or green berries, and watching them as they fell to the ground. I have noticed them in New South Wales treating some of the flowering *Eucalypti* in the same way, and have frequently seen large trees with scarcely a bough untouched, and the whole ground underneath strewn with the leaves and branches. They seldom eat either the blossoms or the capsules of the *Eucalypti*, although they do feed on the palm- (*Ptychosperma alexandræ*) berries, and afterwards begin their work of destruction.

-165. *CALYPTORHYNCHUS BANKSII*.

Not plentiful, one troop of five only met with on the Herbert river.

166. *CALYPTORHYNCHUS LEACHII*.167. *CALYPTORHYNCHUS FUNEREUS*.

These seem to be the usual, but not common, species found about the Herbert river and Cardwell. I met them on two or three occasions, but found them very shy.

168. *PTISTES ERYTHROPTERUS*.

I found this species dispersed over the whole region from the Clarence river to the Cardwell district. Specimens of this species are smaller in size the further north they are found, until it reaches Cooktown and the Cape-York district, where they are the smallest, and the crimson on the shoulders of a deeper tint.

169. *PLATYCERCUS CYANOGENYS*.

Only once met with ; this species appears to be very rare in the Cardwell district, although I have seen several specimens from Cape York.

I found Parrots of all kinds very scarce, and especially the ground-Parrakeets and their allies. I did not meet with a single species of *Euphema* or *Psephotus*.

170. *TRICHOGLOSSUS MULTICOLOR*.171. *GLOSSOPSITTA PUSILLA*.172. *GLOSSOPSITTA AUSTRALIS*.

All three species very plentiful, and frequently met with feeding in the flowering *Eucalypti*.

I searched diligently for *T. rubritorquis*, but found no trace of it.

173. *CYCLOPSITTA MACLEAYANA*, Ramsay, Sydney Morning Herald Newspaper, Nov. 15, 1874.

This interesting and prettily marked species was discovered first by Mr. K. Broadbent near Cardwell, and found feeding on the native figs with which the scrubs abound. The specimens in the Dobroyde Collection are the only fully adult specimens obtained. I believe I forwarded to the Society a full description of the adults, male and female, and the young, several months ago *. In case I should not have done so, I enclose a slip from the 'Sydney Morning Herald,' in which a portion of my notes appeared about the same time.

Male. Upper surface bright grass-green; forehead crimson bounded by a band of bright verditer blue, which extends through the lores, and, narrowing round the eye, reaches to the ear-coverts; from the base of the lower mandible, extending over the ear-coverts, an oblong patch of crimson, bounded below by a patch of deep blue; outer webs of primaries and secondaries deep blue; inner webs blackish brown; shoulders tinged with blue, under surface of the shoulders bright green, having a narrow band of yellow, formed by a series of spots of the larger under wing-coverts; across the centre of the wing a larger band of yellow, formed by a series of elongated marks on all but the second and third primaries; a longitudinal spot of red on the inner webs of the third and fourth tertiaries nearest the body; the remainder of the wings on the under surface blackish brown; whole of the under surface of the body bright

* [This description was never received. The species appears to be the same as *C. maccayi*, Gould, P. Z. S. 1875, p. 314, and Birds of New Guinea, pt. i. pl. 10.—P. L. S.]

green; on the sides of the breast, from under the wing, extending nearly to the flanks, is an oblong patch of bright yellow; under tail-coverts and flanks bright green, tipped with verditer; bill, tarsi, and feet dark-horn colour. Total length 5 inches, wings from flexure $3\frac{3}{16}$, tarsi $\frac{7}{16}$, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill from cere along the culmen $\frac{9}{16}$, width at base $\frac{1}{2}$.

Female. The female differs in having the whole of the sides of the face, from the base of the upper mandible to the ear-coverts, of a bright verditer blue; the outer and lower portions of the ear-coverts deep cobalt blue, and in having no trace of red on these parts. The spot on forehead just in front of the cere is of a duller and more of an orange-red than in the male; the breast and abdomen have a slight tinge of yellowish green.

Hab. Scrubs on coast-range near Cardwell, Rockingham Bay, Queensland.

Young. In the not quite adult birds the breast and under surface of the body is of a paler green, and has a decided yellow tinge. The cheeks are of a paler blue, and void of the red patch so conspicuous in the adult male. Bill pale horn-colour, darker at the tip.

Remarks. This very prettily marked species is the second of the genus *Cyclopsitta* now known to inhabit Australia; it is closely allied, although quite distinct from *C. coxeni*, Gould, being much smaller and more beautifully and distinctly marked about the face and head. The specimens now gracing the collection of William Macleay, Esq., M.L.A., of Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, those in the Australian Museum, and in the Dobroyde-Museum collection, from which the above descriptions have been jointly taken, were procured by Mr. K. Broadbent, taxidermist, during a collecting-tour in the neighbourhood of Cardwell. They were found feeding on the fruit of the native fig-trees, which abound in the dense scrubs and brushes clothing the margins of creeks and rivers at the foot of the coast-range. It is doubtless the northern representative of *Cyclopsitta coxeni*, which, I believe, has not been met with north of the Brisbane district.

3. Description of the Eggs and Young of *Rallina tricolor*, from Rockingham Bay, Queensland. By EDWARD P. RAMSAY, C.M.Z.S.

[Received August 24, 1875.]

I found this fine species of Rail by no means rare in the dense scrubs which fringe the rivers and creeks of the coast range near Rockingham Bay; but although tolerably plentiful, they are always very difficult to obtain, on account of the nature of the localities they frequent and their retiring disposition. They are seldom to be seen without lying in wait for them; and not always then can one obtain a shot, except, perhaps, at such close quarters as would entirely destroy them.

They move about more in the evenings and early morn, and at